THE SPEECH AND CARRIAGE OF Stephen Colledge AT OXFORD,

Before the CASTLE, on WEDNESDAY AUGUST 31. 1681.

Taken exactly from his own Mouth at the Place of Execution.

LONDON,
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THE SPEECH AND CARRIAGE OF Stephen Colledge, &c.

Mr. High-Sheriff. MR. *Colledge*, It is desired for the satisfaction of the World, because you have profest your self a Protestant, that you would tell what Judgement you are of.

Colledge. Dear People, Dear Protestants, and Dear Countrey-men, I have been Accused and Convicted for Treason; the Laws adjudge me to this Death, and I come hither willingly to submit to it: I pray God forgive all those persons that had any hand in it. I do declare to you, whatever hath been said of me, I was never a Papist, or ever that way inclined; they have done me wrong, I was ever a Protestant, I was born a Protestant, I have lived so, and so by the Grace of God I will dye, of the Church of *England*, according to the best Reformation of the Church from all Idolatry, from all Superstition, or any thing that is contrary to the Gospel of our Blessed Lord and Saviour.

I do declare I was never in any Popish Service, Prayers or Devotions in my life, save one time about some 17 or 18 years ago, as near as I remember, I was out of a Curiosity one Afternoon at St. *James*'s Chappel, the Queens Chappel, at St. *James*'s; except that one time I never did hear any Popish Service, any thing of the Church of *Rome*, Mass or Prayers, or any thing else, Private or Publick. I know you expect that I should say something as to what I dye for: It hath been charged upon me, when I was apprehended and brought before the Council, some of the Council, the Secretary, and my Lord *Killingworth*, and Mr. *Seymour*, they told me there was Treason sworn against me: truly they surprized me when they said so.

For of all things in the world I thought my ſelf as free from that as any man. I asked them if any man living had the confidence to ſwear Treaſon againſt me? They ſaid ſeveral, three or four as I remember: Then they told me, It was ſworn againſt me, That I had a deſign to pull the King out of *White-hall*: and to ſerve him as his Father was ſerved, or to that purpoſe; the Logger-head his Father, or that kind of Language: I did deny it then, and do now deny it upon my death. I never was in any manner of Plot in my days, neither one way nor another, never knew any ſuch perſons, nor ever had ſuch communication with any man hitherto: I know of no Plot in the world but the Popiſh Plot, and that every man may know as much as I: if I had had ſuch a deſign as theſe men have ſworn againſt me, to have ſeized his Majeſty either at *London*, or this place at *Oxford*, I take God to witneſs, as I am a dying man, and upon the terms of my Salvation, I know not any one man upon the face of the Earth that would have ſtood by me, and how likely it was that I ſhould do ſuch a thing my ſelf, let the whole world judge.

Dugdale ſwears, That I ſpoke Treaſon to him, Treaſonable words in the Coffee-houſe, and in the Barbers ſhop by the *Angel*; even *He* could not pretend to ſee me any where elſe; but it is falſe and a very unlikely thing that I ſhould ſpeak Treaſon to him. I muſt confeſs I was in his company at the Coffee-houſe, and that Barbers ſhop before I went out of Town: but there could be no communication between us, for he was writing at one end of the room, and eating a piece of Bread, and I lighted a Pipe of Tobacco at the other end and took it, till it. *Tho. Player* and Sir *Rob. Clayton* came to me, and we went to my Lord *Lovelace*'s out of Town that night: So when they came, we took Horſe, and went out of Town with the reſt: For my part I can't ſum up my Witneſſes, I was under moſt ſtrange circumſtances as ever any man was; I was kept priſoner ſo cloſe in the *Tower*, that I could have no converſation with any, though I was certain the Popiſh Lords had it every day there, but I could have none: I could not tell the Witneſſes that were to ſwear againſt me: I could not tell what it was they ſwore againſt me, for I could have no Copy of the Indictment, nor no way poſſible to make any preparation to make my defence, as I ought to have done, and might have done by Law.

I had no liberty to do any thing, as I am a dying man. And as to what *Dugdale*, *Smith*, *Turbervill* and *Heines* ſwore againſt me, they did ſwear ſuch Treaſon, that nothing but a mad man would ever have truſted any body with; and leaſt of all to Papiſts, every one of them that had been concerned with Plots and Treaſons among their own party: and under the greateſt ties and obligations of damnation; and to be Sainted if they kept it ſecret, and to be damned if they did reveal it. If theſe men will not keep things private for their own party, how could I truſt them? I take God to witneſs, and do freely acknowledge, I have ſought my God with tears ſeveral times to inform me, if ſo be I had with any word tranſgreſt at any time. I knew not of any part of what they ſwore againſt me, till ſuch time as I heard it ſworn againſt me at the Bar.

This is very hard Gentlemen, but this is the Truth: and there be a great many other ſtrange Reports that I have heard ſince I have been a Priſoner: That I ſhould be a means to convert the Counteſs of *Rocheſter*, by bringing one *Thompſon* a Prieſt to her. Truly all that I was concerned in, was ſome 15 or 16 years ago. I lodged at Colonel *Vernon*'s, that married the

the Lady *Brooks*, the Family were Papiſts: The *Brookſes* were Papiſts, and there was this *Thompſon*, and I did ſuppoſe him a Prieſt, in the houſe, though I never ſaw him at Popiſh ſervice or Worſhip, though I was there half a year; but coming afterwards to My Lord *Rocheſters* about ſome buſineſs I had to do for him, and ſeveral other perſons of Quality; he ſent for me one Afternoon from the Parſonage in *Adderbury* to his houſe, and his Lady and he ſtood together: He ſent to me and asked me if my Horſe were at home, ſaid he, I would have you carry this Letter to Mr. *Thompſon*, if you are at leiſure this Afternoon: My Lord I am at leiſure to ſerve you, ſo I took a Letter from his hand and his Ladies too as I remember (he made an offer that way) Sealed with his own Seal, and I carried it to *Thompſon* and delivered it to him, and he told me that he would wait upon my Lord, for it was for ſome Lands my Lord did offer to raiſe money for ſome occaſion: this is the truth of that ſcandal.

It is ſaid that I had a Prieſt ſeveral years in my houſe, *viz. Sergeant* that came over from *Holland* to diſcover: About ſome Ten years ago, that very ſame man came to me, but was a ſtranger to me, and he came to me by the name of Doctor *Smith* a Phyſician: and there was an Apothecary in the *Old-Bayly*, and a Linnen Draper within *Ludgate*, that came with him, they brought him thither and took a Chamber and lay about half a year, or three quartes at times, by the name of Doctor *Smith*, and as a Phyſician: this is the truth of that and no otherwiſe. This is the entertainment of *Sergeant*.

So the occaſion of my coming to *Oxford* I do ſay was voluntary, the Parliament men laſt Parliament at *Weſtminſter*, and ſeveral Lords dined together the day before they ſat; the laſt Seſſions of Parliament at *Weſtminſter* they ſent for me to the *Sun* Tavern behind the *Exchange*, and when I came, the Duke of *Monmouth* and ſeveral Lords were together, and I believe above 100 Parliament men of the Commons: The Duke of *Monmouth* called me to him and told me he had heard a good report of me, and that I was an honeſt man and one that may be truſted; and they did not know but their Enemies the Papiſts might have ſome deſign to ſerve them as they did in King *James*'s time by Gun-powder, or any other way: And the Duke with ſeveral Lords and Commons did deſire me to uſe my utmoſt skill in ſearching all places ſuſpected by them, which I did perform: and from thence I had as I think the Popular name of the Proteſtant Joyner, becauſe they had intruſted me before any man in *England* to do that Office.

This ſame *Heines*, one of them that Swore againſt me, had diſcovered to me and ſeveral others as to *Macknamarra* and his brother and this *Ivey*, who are now all of another ſtamp, that the Parliament was to be deſtroyed at *Oxford*, and that there was a deſign to murder my Lord *Shaftsbury*, by *Fitzgerald* and his party; and that they did endeavour to bring *Macknamarra* over to him, and ſaid, then it would be well with him: and they would not be long before they had *Shaftsburies* life: and he made Depoſitions of this to Sir *George Treby*, as I heard afterwards, for I was not with him when it was Sworn. I wiſh the Commons of *England* as well as I wiſh my own heart; and I did not underſtand but when I ſerved the Parliament, I ſerved his Majeſty too, and let them be miſerable that make the difference between them, for my part I never did. I came to *Oxford* with my Lord *Howard*, whom I look upon to be a very honeſt worthy Gentlemen, My Lord *Clare*. My Lord *Paget* and my Lord *Huntington*

Preston, and this Captain *Brown* and *Don Lewis* were in my Company, and came along with us, as they were my Lord *Howards* friends, *Brown* I have known I believe two or three months; but *Lewis* I never saw before that day: They said they came with my Lord *Howard*. I take God to Witness, I never had one 6 *d.* or any thing else to carry on any design; and if it were to save my life now, I cannot charge any man in the world with any design against the Government, as God is my Witness, or against his Majesty, or any other person. As for what Arms I had, and what Arms others had, they were for our own defence in case the Papists should make any attempt upon us by way of Massacre, or any Invasion or Rebelion, that we should be ready to defend our selves; God is my Witness, this is all I know: If this be a Plot; this I was in, but in no other, but never knew of any numbers or times appointed for meeting; but we have said one to another that the Papists had a design against the Protestants, when we did meet, as I was a man of general conversation; and in case they should rise we were ready, but then they should begin the attempt upon us: This was my business, and is the business of every good Subject that loves the Laws of his Country and his King. For *England* can never hope to be happy under those blood-thirsty men; whose Religion is blood and murder, which I do with all my soul, and did ever since I knew what Religion was, abhor and detest, *viz.* the Church of *Rome* as pernitious and destructive to humane Societies and all Government.

I beseech God that every man of you may unite together as Protestants against this common Foe. Gentlemen it is my sense, and I do in that believe I am as certainly murdred by the hands of the Papists as Sir *Edm. Bury Godfrey* himself was, though the thing is not seen: These Witnesses certainly are mercenary men, and I beseech God almighty to have mercy upon their Souls, and forgive them; and either by his judgments or mercies reclaim them, that they shed no more innocent blood: There is not a man of 'em that I know of that ever heard me say or do any bit of Treason in my life: This is (the first I may not say it is) but almost the 20*th*. Sham-plot that they have endeavoured to put upon the Nation, to delude the people and put off their own Damnable Plot. This is not the first, but I think the sixteenth or seventeenth. I pray God that my blood may be the last: I pray God defend every mans blood, and all Protestants in *England* from the hands of these bloody Papists, by whose means I die this Death; and if they shall go on in this nature, I hope the good God will open every mans eyes to see it before he feels it. And I beseech you if you have any love for your King, your Country, and the Protestants, unite together if you are Protestants. I pray God those that deserve the name, let 'em be called how they will, either Dissenters or Church of *England* men, That they may unite together like men, like Christians, against the common Foe, who will spare neither the one side nor the other, but beat you one against another like two Pitchers; the last that stands they will certainly destroy if they can. This is my sense and God's my Witness, I speak my Conscience. I do not know Mr. Sheriff whether there be any thing else I have to say or no; we have a good God, and I beseech every man that hears me this day, (for we live in a sinful age, good people, and it behoves every one of you; it cannot belong before all that look upon me in this condition must lie down in the Dust, and God knows must come into an eternal State (either for mercy or for judgment) I beseech you in the name of

God

God, he is a God of mercy and a God of Patience and long ſuffering, that you would break off your ſins by repentance, and ſerve a good God who muſt be your friend at laſt, or elſe you are loſt to Eternity.

O Lord, how ungrateful wretches are we, that have a God of ſuch infinite mercy and goodneſs, that affords us our life, our health, and a thouſand mercies every day, and we like ungrateful people, not deſerving the name of men or Chriſtians, live riotous lives in debauchery and ſwearing, in malice, and the Lord knows how many evils: I beſeech God that I may be this day a means in the hand of God, to bring ſome of their Souls over to him: I beſeech you remember what I ſay; indeed I do not know, I have been ſo ſtrangely uſed ſince I have been a Priſoner, what to ſay: being brought from one affliction to another, that my body is worn out, and my memory and Intellects have failed me much to what they were: I can't remember what I have to ſay more, but that the Lord Jeſus Chriſt would bleſs my Countrey, and preſerve it from Popery, and in mercy bleſs his Majeſty: Good God be merciful to him, make him an Inſtrument in thy hand to defend his Proteſtant Subjects; Lord in mercy defend him from his enemies: Good God bleſs this people, good Lord continue the Goſpel of Jeſus Chriſt, thy Goſpel in its purity to us and our poſterity, as long as the Sun and Moon endure. O Lord ſave all that call upon thee, be merciful to all thy ſervants, all thy people that put their truſt in thee: Good Lord deliver them from the hand of their Enemies: Good God, let their lives and bodies and ſouls be all precious in thy ſight: O merciful God, put a ſtop to theſe moſt wicked Conſpiracies of thy enemies, and the nations enemies, the Papiſts. Let no more Proteſtant blood be ſhed but this of mine, I beſeech thee, O my God. O Lord look upon me, O Lord bleſs me, O good God receive me into thy bleſſed preſence, by Jeſus Chriſt my alone Saviour and Redeemer, in whom alone I put my truſt for Salvation; It is thee, O God, that I truſt in, thou righteous Judge of Heaven and Earth: all Popery, all Pardons, all Popes and Prieſts, all Diſpenſations I diſown, and will not go out of the world with a Lye in my mouth: From the ſincerity of my heart I declare again, that what I have ſaid to you is the very ſentiments of my Soul, as God ſhall have mercy upon me, and to the beſt of my knowledge.

I deſire the Prayers of you good people while I am here, and once more I beſeech you to think upon Eternity every one of you that hear me this day. The Lord turn your Hearts and Souls if you have been wicked livers; if you do live wicked lives the Lord in mercy convert you, and ſhew you your danger: for I as little thought to come to this as any man that hears me this day; and I bleſs God, I have no more deſerved it from the hands of men than the Child that ſucks at his mothers Breaſt: I bleſs my God for it; and do ſay I have been a ſinner againſt my God, and he hath learnt me Grace ever ſince I have been a Priſoner. I bleſs my God for a Priſon, I bleſs my God for Afflictions, I bleſs my God that ever I was reſtrained, for I never knew my ſelf till he had taken me out of the world. Therefore you that have your liberties, and time, and precious opportunities, be up and be doing for God and for your Souls, every one of you.

To his Son. Where is my dear Child?

Mr. Sheriff. I made one requeſt to you, and you gave me an imperfect Anſwer: You ſaid you were of the beſt Reformed Church in the world, the Church of *England* according to the beſt Reformation in the World: I deſire you for the ſatisfaction of the world to declare what Church that

is,

is, whether Presbyterian, or Independent, or the Church of *England*, or what?

Colledge. Good Mr. Sheriff, for your satisfaction: For twenty years and above I was under the Presbyterian Ministry till his Majesties Restauration; then I was conformable to the Church of *England* when that was restored, and so continued till such time as I saw persecutions upon the dissenting people, and very undue things done in their Meeting-places; then I went among them to know what kind of people those were: and I do take God to witness, since that time I have used their meetings, *viz.* the Presbyterians, others very seldom, and the Church of *England.* I did hear Dr. *Tillotson* not above three weeks before I was taken. I heard the Church of *England* as frequently as I heard the Dissenters; and never had any prejudice, God is my witness, against either, but always heartily desired that they might unite, and be Lovers and Friends, and I had no prejudice against any man; and truly I am afraid that it is not for the Nations good that there should be such heart-burnings between them: That some of the Church of *England* will preach that the Presbyterians are worse than the Papists. God doth know that what I say, I speak freely from my heart, I have found many among them truly serving God, and so I have of all the rest that have come into my company; men without any manner of design but to serve God, serve his Majesty, and keep their Liberties and Properties; men that I am certain are not of vicious lives; I found no Dammers or those kind of people among them, or at least few of them.

To his Son, Kissing him several times with great passion. Dear Child Farewel, the Lord have mercy upon thee. Good people, let me have your Prayers to God almighty to receive my Soul.

And then he Prayed: And as soon as he had done spake as followeth:

The Lord have mercy upon my Enemies, and I beseech you good people who ever you are, and the whole world that I have offended to forgive me, whom ever I have offended in word or deed, I aske every mans pardon, and I forgive the World withal my soul, all the injuries I have received, and I beseech God Almighty forgive those poor Wretches who have cast away their souls or at least endangered them to ruine this body of mine: I beseech God that they may have a sight of their sins, and that they may find mercy at his hands: Let my blood speak the Justice of my cause.

I have done: and God have mercy upon you all.

To Mr. *Crosthwait.* Pray Sir my service to Dr. *Hall*, and Dr. *Reynall*, and thank them for all their kindnesses to me; I thank you Sir for your kindness: The Lord bless you all. Mr. Sheriff, God be with you: God be with you all good people.

The Executioner Ketch *desired his pardon.* And he said I do forgive you. The Lord have mercy on my soul.

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